

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /036 W

-----095283 131057Z /13/66

R 111440Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ACCRA 3781

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 3781 VICE 3 1)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, EFIS, GB, GH
SUBJ: STARKIST SCIENTIST TEMPORARILY JAILED IN GABON

1.REQUEST. STARKIST GHANA MANAGING DIRECTOR JACK KAVANAUGH
HAS REPORTED THE BELOW DESCRIBED INCIDENT INTERRUPTING
STARKIST EFFORT TO OBTAIN FISHING RIGHTS IN GABONESE
WATERS, WITH POTENTIAL INVESTMENT FOLLOW-ON AND HAS ASKED
EMBASSY LIBREVILLE'S ADVISE ON HOW BEST TO PROCEED.

2. INCIDENT. J. ERIC KWEI, A GHANAIAN SCIENTIST
EMPLOYED BY STARKIST FOODS, LOS ANGELES, AT PRESENT BAYED
WITH STARKIST (GHANA) AT TEMA PORT HERE, WENT TO LIBREVILLE
ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO TO DISCUSS LICENSES FOR STARKIST TUNA
BOATS TO FISH IN GABONESE WATERS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING SOME SORT OF A STARKIST SUBSIDIARY IN GABON.
DR. KWEI MET WITH, AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED, BY GABONESE'S
MINISTER OF FORESTRY AND FISHERIES AND ASKED TO RETURN
WITH A DETAILED WRITTEN PROPOSAL. ON HIS RETURN MAY 8,
HE WAS ARRESTED AT THE AIRPORT, HELD IN CELL THERE,
WITHOUT FOOD, FOR OVER 24 HOURS AND THEN RELEASED TO
DEPART GABON. HIS ROUNDTRIP TICKET, VALID VISA AND,
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GLE UNDERFTANZEF# UN NAVEI DOCUMENTS (HE HAD WORKED FOR UN)
WERE FACTORS FAVORING HIS RELEASE. HE WAS NOT PERMITTED
TO TELEPHONE WHILE THERE. HE MAILED THE STARKIST
PROPOSAL (SEEKING LICENSES FOR 20 VESSELS AND SOME FORM--
UNSPECIFIED -- OF INVESTMENT IN GABON) TO THE MINISTER
FROM LOME MAY 10. STARKIST IS SENDING US A COPY OF ITS
PROPOSAL AND WE WILL POUCH IT PROMPTLY TO LIBREVILLE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. STARKIST (GHANA) HAS REPORTED THIS INCIDENT TO STARKIST FOODS LOS ANGELES AND ASKED THIS EMBASSY TO SEEK AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE ADVICE ON HOW STARKIST MIGHT BEST PROCEED. IN ADDITION, STARKIST WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING EMBASSY LIBREVILLE COULD SUGGEST OR DO TO ENABLE STARKIST TO RESUME ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON.

4. PLEASE ADVISE. SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Review Markings:
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